

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 18227 01 OF 02 071836Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 /041 W
-----099573 071844Z /64

R 071838Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2854
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 18227

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, FR, VM
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM - THE FRENCH
COMPONENT

REF: STATE 137236

1. SHEPARD LOWMAN, DIRECTOR OF HA/ORM, ACCOMPANIED
BY CONGEN AND POLOFF, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CHAYET
JUNE 5 TO COMPARE NOTES ON THE FRENCH AND U.S.
PROGRAMS FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. CHAYET DESCRIBED
THE FRENCH PROGRAM AS BASED PHILOSOPHICALLY ON
PRAGMATIC CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH BUT NOTED, IN PRACTICE,
THAT IT CONTINUED TO RUN AT A LEVEL OF A LITTLE OVER
1,000 INDOCHINESE PER MONTH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 18227 01 OF 02 071836Z

2. THE MAKEUP OF THIS CASE LOAD IS NOW CHANGING
SOMEWHAT. UNTIL RECENTLY, IT HAS BEEN RUNNING 800 TO
900 PER MONTH FROM THAILAND AND THE REMAINDER FROM
VIETNAM OR BOAT CASES. INCREASING NUMBERS OF CAMBOD-
IANS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FROM VIETNAM. NEARLY 400
CAMBODIANS PER MONTH HAVE BEEN COMING OUT IN THE LAST

FEW MONTHS. WITH APPROXIMATELY 3500 VISAS TO CAMBODIAN APPLICANTS OUTSTANDING AND A MORE LIBERAL ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WITH RESPECT TO EXIT VISAS FOR THIS GROUP, THIS HIGHER RATE SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. OVER AND ABOVE THIS 1,000 PER MONTH REFUGEE FLOW IS ANOTHER APPROXIMATELY 1,000 WHO ARE NOT TECHNICALLY REFUGEES IN FRENCH TERMS SINCE THEY HAVE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN FRANCE OR ARE MARRIED TO FRENCH (AND DEPENDENTS OF THESE PERSONS) AND OTHER SPECIALIZED CATEGORIES SUCH AS PRE-L954 OFFSPRING OF FRENCH IN INDOCHINA, WHO HAVE A CLAIM TO FRENCH CITIZENSHIP.

3. CHAYET SAID THAT THE FRENCH WERE EXPERIENCING SOMEWHAT GREATER DIFFICULTY IN INTEGRATING THE REFUGEES INTO FRENCH SOCIETY. INCREASED PUBLIC ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH AFFECTS POPULAR ATTITUDES TOWARD AND AWARENESS OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, THE BACKGROUND AND CAPABILITIES OF REFUGEES COMING OUT NOW MAKE THEIR INTEGRATION INTO FRENCH SOCIETY SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT. SINCE FRENCH CONSIDER, BY DEFINITION, THOSE WITHOUT RELATIVES IN FRANCE AS REFUGEES, THEY ARE KEPT IN RE-SETTLEMENT CENTERS FOR LANGUAGE AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD WHICH VARIES ACCORDING TO THEIR EXISTING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH. PREVIOUSLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 18227 01 OF 02 071836Z

REFUGEES WERE KEPT IN SUCH CENTERS FROM THREE TO SIX MONTHS WITH THE AVERAGE CLOSER TO THREE MONTHS. THE AVERAGE RE-SETTLEMENT TIME NOW IS MUCH CLOSER TO SIX MONTHS, WHICH MEANS SYSTEM OF INTEGRATION INTO FRENCH SOCIETY IS WORKING AT WHAT THE FRENCH CONSIDER TO BE CLOSE TO ITS CAPACITY.

4. IN DISCUSSING THESE PROBLEMS, AMBASSADOR CHAYET SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH PROGRAM TO CONTINUE AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL INDEFINITELY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY IMMEDIATE REDUCTION AND THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD SURELY CONTINUE FOR A LONGER PERIOD EVEN IF THE RATE WERE REDUCED.

5. IN DESCRIBING THE U.S. PROGRAM AND OUR PERCEPTIONS OF THE PROBLEM FACING US IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, LOWMAN NOTED IN PARTICULAR THE SHARP INCREASE IN BOAT ARRIVALS IN APRIL AND MAY. LOWMAN NOTED THAT THIS SHARP INCREASE WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO STRETCH NUMBERS UNDER THE PENDING PAROLE PROPOSAL FOR AS LONG AS A YEAR. HE ASKED

WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH PROGRAM
TO TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL NUMBERS OF BOAT CASES FROM
THEIR PRESENT COMPLEMENT. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 18227 02 OF 02 071835Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 /041 W
-----099569 071845Z /64

R 071838Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2855
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 18227

FRENCH MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME ADDITIONAL RESPONSE
TO THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH A PLEDGE OF, PERHAPS,
3,000 OR 4,000 ADDITIONAL NUMBERS.

6. CHAYET AGREED THAT THE SUDDEN UPSURGE IN BOAT CASE
NUMBERS WAS RELATED TO THE RECENT NATIONALIZATION OF
PRIVATE BUSINESS IN VIETNAM. REPORTS FROM THE FRENCH
CONGEN IN HO CHI MINH CITY DESCRIBED THE DETAILS OF
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ORDER AS INCREDIBLE.
TRAINED BANDS OF YOUNG MEN REPORTEDLY SEARCHED HOUSES
AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE CITY MAKING INVENTORIES
OF PRIVATE PROPERTY DOWN TO THE LAST NUT AND BOLT.
OVERNIGHT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION WAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 18227 02 OF 02 071835Z

DEPRIVED OF ANY LEGAL MEANS OF OBTAINING A LIVELIHOOD.

7. CHAYET MADE NO COMMITMENT WITH RESPECT TO FRENCH RESPONSE TO THIS PROBLEM. HE WAS CLEARLY SURPRISED AT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE NUMBERS INVOLVED AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROBLEMS THESE REFUGEES FACED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH PROGRAM HAD GENERALLY NOT TAKEN CHINESE, BELIEVING THAT THEY HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND THE PRC, IN CONTRAST TO HISTORIC OBLIGATIONS OF FRENCH TOWARD INDOCHINA. HE ALSO NOTED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE FRENCH PROGRAM HAD ALWAYS PREFERRED TO AVOID A FORMAL COMMITMENT. HE NEVERTHELESS REQUESTED THAT WE SUPPLY HIM WITH OUR MOST RECENT STATISTICS, WHICH WE HAVE DONE, AND INDICATED THAT HE INTENDED TO REPORT THIS PROBLEM TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT GISCARD.

8. CHAYET INDICATED THAT HE TOO HAD RECEIVED SUGGESTIONS THAT THIS PROBLEM BE TAKEN UP IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM SUCH AS THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SEEK GREATER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A FORUM WOULD LIKELY NOT PRODUCE NEW RE-SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND COULD HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE AFFECT IF NOT GIVEN WIDE SUPPORT BY THE UNGA. CLEARLY, CHAYET FELT, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE SUCH SUPPORT IN THE UNGA. ALTHOUGH NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, CHAYET SAW THE POSSIBILITY THAT A CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT CALLED BY THE UNHCR MIGHT, WITH PROPER PRIOR PREPARATION, PRODUCE SOME MORE DESIRABLE RESULTS.HARTMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS18227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0357
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780686/aaaacvvr.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7e8cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 137236
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2454446
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM - THE FRENCH COMPONENT
TAGS: SREF, FR, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7e8cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014